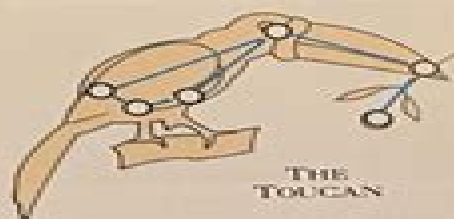


TUCANA

This southern constellation, representing a toucan, the large-beaked bird of South and Central America, lies close to the bright star Achernar and south of two other celestial birds, Grus and Phoenix. It was invented in the late 16th century by the Dutch navigators Pieter Dirkszoon Keyser and Frederick de Houtman. Its brightest star is Alpha (α) Tucanae, magnitude 2.9, but its most notable naked-eye object is the Small Magellanic Cloud.



THE TOUCAN

FULLY VISIBLE
14°N–90°S

NGC 104 (47 TUCANAE)

A telescope of moderate aperture reveals that this spectacular globular cluster has a particularly bright, condensed center and less dense outer regions.



FEATURES OF INTEREST

Beta (β) Tucanae ☉ ♀ A multiple star. When seen with the naked eye or through binoculars it appears as a double star with components of 4th and 5th magnitudes. A small telescope further divides the primary into components of magnitudes 4.4 and 4.5.

Kappa (κ) Tucanae ♀ A double star with components of 5th and 8th magnitudes that can be separated through a small telescope.

NGC 104 (47 Tucanae) ☉ ♀ A globular cluster, rated the second best of its type in the whole sky. To the naked eye it appears similar to a hazy star of 4th magnitude. Binoculars or a small telescope show it covering the same area of sky as the full Moon, although an aperture of 4 in (100 mm) is needed to resolve its stars. The cluster lies 15,000 light-years away.

NGC 362 ♀ A globular cluster visible with binoculars or a small telescope. It appears to

lie near the Small Magellanic Cloud (see below) but is, in fact, only 29,000 light-years away and hence is in our own Galaxy.

The Small Magellanic Cloud (SMC)

☉ ♀ The smaller of the Milky Way's two satellite galaxies. It appears to the naked eye as an elongated patch of light seven times wider than the full Moon, while binoculars or a small telescope resolve individual clusters and nebulae within it. This galaxy is much smaller than our own, having only a few percent of our Galaxy's mass and less than 10 percent of its diameter. It is about 190,000 light-years away.

Height 10°

Area 295 square degrees

Size ranking 48th

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